

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING OF A CHANGE

(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KOHRs, Martin
Thomson Multimedia
46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo
F-92648 Boulogne
FRANCE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 November 2001 (13.11.01)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference PF990046	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/EP00/06634	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 July 2000 (12.07.00)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> the inventor <input type="checkbox"/> the agent <input type="checkbox"/> the common representative		
Name and Address THOMSON MULTIMEDIA 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo F-92100 Boulogne-Billancourt France	State of Nationality FR	State of Residence FR
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the person <input type="checkbox"/> the name <input type="checkbox"/> the address <input type="checkbox"/> the nationality <input type="checkbox"/> the residence		
Name and Address THOMSON LICENSING S.A. 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo F-92100 Boulogne-Billancourt France	State of Nationality FR	State of Residence FR
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office <input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority <input type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned <input type="checkbox"/> other: </div> </div>		

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Beate GIFFO-SCHMITT Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
--	--

REC'D 23 JUL 2001

PCT

WIPO

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70) 14

Applicant's or agent's file reference PF990046	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/06634	International filing date (day/month/year) 12/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 12/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N5/00		
Applicant THOMSON MULTIMEDIA et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☐ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08/02/2001	Date of completion of this report 19.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Luckett, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8965 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-9 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 1-9.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-9 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

R It m III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

- 1 The features of the independent claims are cast in such broad and vague terms that these claims are not deemed to find adequate technical support in the description nor to be adequately clear to enable a fair determination of their intended scope (Art 6, PCT).
- 2a The claims are neither clear nor concise (Art 6, PCT). The number of independent claims and the disparity between their respective subject matter makes it impossible to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection. In order to overcome this objection, it would appear appropriate to file an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a minimum number of independent claims in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional.
- 2b In independent claim 1 the "television receivers" are defined as being "linked" to a "server", but no definition is given of these receivers being used in the steps of transmitting data to or from the server. The broad terms of the claim leave open the actual transmission paths intended so that these could include a separate telephone based communication network, e.g. the Internet.
- 2c Independent claim 4, in contrast does specify that data is sent to the server "through their respective television receivers", but it does not clarify that the communication established by the server, is through the respective receivers.
- 2d Independent claim 8 is the broadest of all claims. In its extreme interpretation, it involves nothing more than a television receiver having the possibility of two way communication controlled via a "microprocessor" and an "interface". The fact that the processor and interface are merely suitable for the functions defined in the claim does not imply any real technical limitation to the claim's scope. Any of the many well known , TV sets with interactive electronic program guide and selection facility, effectively anticipates the broad terms of this claim.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

2e It should be noted in respect of the described embodiments that a TV receiver expanded with a set top box including microprocessor, modem and memory is considered to be the technical equivalent of a PC equipped with a video card and Internet facility. A skilled person well understands the technical equivalence of these alternative constellations, and no inventive merit can be seen in drawing any presumed surprising effect or benefit of one over the other.

3a In as far as their scope can at present be determined, it appears that at least some of the broader claims are either anticipated or rendered obvious by the disclosure of :-

D1: US-A-5 835 087 (EISNER JASON M ET AL) 10 November 1998
(1998-11-10)

3b Considering the fact that any PC fitted with a video card can be considered as a "television receiver", the sole distinction between the embodiments of the invention and the disclosure of D1 where referring to "virtual communities" (cf D1 cols 73 - 75) is that the user profiles for defining such "chat" communities are defined with reference to data relating to TV programs actually watched.

3c However, systems for monitoring TV audience viewing habits by polling data transmitted from subscriber sets to head end stations are very well known in the art. A skilled person would readily understand that the "user profiles" which "indicate the user's interest..." (cf. D1 col/lines: 75/30-32) include just such data when the PCs of the computer based system disclosed in D1 are fitted with the equally commonly known video cards turning them into "television receivers". This is all the more to be expected of a skilled person, given the trend to merge technologies of broadcast television facilities and on-line computer facilities, a trend which was well understood by all skilled persons at the application's priority date.

4 The independent claim/s/ are not cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art (see document D1) being placed in the preamble. This is considered to be particularly appropriate in the present case as it is regarded as essential to establishing a clear picture of the contribution

made by the applicants vis-a-vis the closely relevant subject matter known from D1.

- 5 Reference signs in parentheses inserted in the claims would increase their intelligibility. This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion.
- 6 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein. To reflect the state of the art adequately in the description, the document D1 should be identified in the opening pages and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.

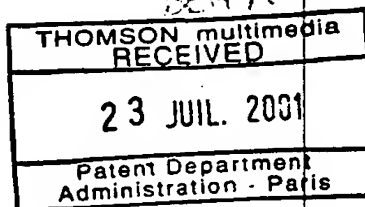
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

EXPRESS EL902321360US

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

KOHRs, Martin
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA
46 quai Alphonse Le Gallé
F-92648 CEDEX BOULOGNE
FRANCE



PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

19.07.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference
PF990046

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/EP00/06634International filing date (day/month/year)
12/07/2000Priority date (day/month/year)
12/07/1999

Applicant

THOMSON MULTIMEDIA et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

 European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized officer

Schalinatus, D

Tel. +49 89 2399-8242



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PF990046	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP00/06634	International filing date (day/month/year) 12/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 12/07/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N5/00			
Applicant THOMSON MULTIMEDIA et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☐ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08/02/2001 ✓	Date of completion of this report 19.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Luckett, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8965 <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-9 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 1-9.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-9 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.?

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

Re It m III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

- 1 The features of the independent claims are cast in such broad and vague terms that these claims are not deemed to find adequate technical support in the description nor to be adequately clear to enable a fair determination of their intended scope (Art 6, PCT).
- 2a The claims are neither clear nor concise (Art 6, PCT). The number of independent claims and the disparity between their respective subject matter makes it impossible to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection. In order to overcome this objection, it would appear appropriate to file an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a minimum number of independent claims in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional.
- 2b In independent claim 1 the "television receivers" are defined as being "linked" to a "server", but no definition is given of these receivers being used in the steps of transmitting data to or from the server. The broad terms of the claim leave open the actual transmission paths intended so that these could include a separate telephone based communication network, e.g. the Internet.
- 2c Independent claim 4, in contrast does specify that data is sent to the server "through their respective television receivers", but it does not clarify that the communication established by the server, is through the respective receivers.
- 2d Independent claim 8 is the broadest of all claims. In its extreme interpretation, it involves nothing more than a television receiver having the possibility of two way communication controlled via a "microprocessor" and an "interface". The fact that the processor and interface are merely suitable for the functions defined in the claim does not imply any real technical limitation to the claim's scope. Any of the many well known, TV sets with interactive electronic program guide and selection facility, effectively anticipates the broad terms of this claim.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

2e It should be noted in respect of the described embodiments that a TV receiver expanded with a set top box including microprocessor, modem and memory is considered to be the technical equivalent of a PC equipped with a video card and Internet facility. A skilled person well understands the technical equivalence of these alternative constellations, and no inventive merit can be seen in drawing any presumed surprising effect or benefit of one over the other.

3a In as far as their scope can at present be determined, it appears that at least some of the broader claims are either anticipated or rendered obvious by the disclosure of :-

D1: US-A-5 835 087 (EISNER JASON M ET AL) 10 November 1998
(1998-11-10)

3b Considering the fact that any PC fitted with a video card can be considered as a "television receiver", the sole distinction between the embodiments of the invention and the disclosure of D1 where referring to "virtual communities" (cf D1 cols 73 - 75) is that the user profiles for defining such "chat" communities are defined with reference to data relating to TV programs actually watched.

3c However, systems for monitoring TV audience viewing habits by polling data transmitted from subscriber sets to head end stations are very well known in the art. A skilled person would readily understand that the "user profiles" which "indicate the user's interest..." (cf. D1 col/lines: 75/30-32) include just such data when the PCs of the computer based system disclosed in D1 are fitted with the equally commonly known video cards turning them into "television receivers". This is all the more to be expected of a skilled person, given the trend to merge technologies of broadcast television facilities and on-line computer facilities, a trend which was well understood by all skilled persons at the application's priority date.

4 The independent claim/s/ are not cast in the two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art (see document D1) being placed in the preamble. This is considered to be particularly appropriate in the present case as it is regarded as essential to establishing a clear picture of the contribution

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP00/06634

made by the applicants vis-a-vis the closely relevant subject matter known from D1.

- 5 Reference signs in parentheses inserted in the claims would increase their intelligibility. This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion.
- 6 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein. To reflect the state of the art adequately in the description, the document D1 should be identified in the opening pages and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

/EP 00/06634

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04N5/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 835 087 A (EISNER JASON M ET AL) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10)	1,2
Y	column 8, line 45 -column 79, line 9 ---	3
Y	EP 0 660 605 A (HITACHI LTD) 28 June 1995 (1995-06-28)	3
	column 8, line 12 -column 31, line 36 ---	
A	WO 96 33562 A (HYBRID NETWORKS INC) 24 October 1996 (1996-10-24)	1-3
	page 5, line 33 -page 17 -----	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

S document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 November 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Materne, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

EP 00/06634

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5835087	A	10-11-1998	US 5758257 A	26-05-1998
			AU 703247 B	25-03-1999
			AU 4410396 A	19-06-1996
			CA 2207868 A	06-06-1996
			EP 0796538 A	24-09-1997
			US 6020883 A	01-02-2000
			WO 9617467 A	06-06-1996
			US 5734720 A	31-03-1998
			US 5754938 A	19-05-1998
			US 5754939 A	19-05-1998
			US 6088722 A	11-07-2000
			US 6029195 A	22-02-2000
<hr/>				
EP 0660605	A	28-06-1995	JP 7236132 A	05-09-1995
			DE 69424389 D	15-06-2000
			US 6005599 A	21-12-1999
<hr/>				
WO 9633562	A	24-10-1996	US 5586121 A	17-12-1996
			EP 0830756 A	25-03-1998
			JP 11504471 T	20-04-1999
			US 5818845 A	06-10-1998
			US 6016316 A	18-01-2000
			US 5959997 A	28-09-1999
			US 6005850 A	21-12-1999
			US 5828655 A	27-10-1998
			US 5946322 A	31-08-1999
			US 5859852 A	12-01-1999
<hr/>				

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2001 (18.01.2001)

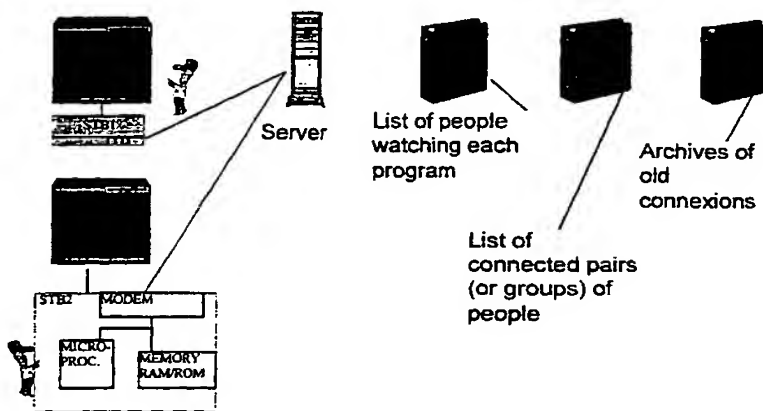
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/05142 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04N 5/00** (74) Agent: KOHRS, Martin; Thomson Multimedia, 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/06634
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 July 2000 (12.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
99401752.3 12 July 1999 (12.07.1999) EP
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THOMSON MULTIMEDIA** [FR/FR]; 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, F-92100 Boulogne-Billancourt (FR).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **LETELLIER, Philippe** [FR/FR]; Thomson Multimedia, 46, quai Alphonse le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— With international search report.

[Continued on next page]

(84) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMUNICATION



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method for establishing communications in a system comprising at least two end devices and a server linked to said end devices by a network wherein it comprises the steps of: activating, by a first user of a first end device, a transmission of data to said server, said data relating to the activities of said user on said device and informing said server that said first user wishes to communicate; checking, by said server, whether other users connected to the server want to communicate; based on data relative to said other users matching the data of the first user, selecting at least a second user among said other users; and establishing a communication between said first user and said at least one second user. The invention also concerns a server device and a television terminal. The invention can be applied in particular in the field of interactive television.

MEMORY MEMOIRE
A SERVEUR
B LISTE DE PERSONNES REGARDANT CHAQUE PROGRAMME
C LISTE DE PAIRES (OU GROUPES) DE PERSONNES CONNECTEES
D ARCHIVES DES ANCIENNES CONNEXIONS

WO 01/05142 A1



— Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/06634

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04N5/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 835 087 A (EISNER JASON M ET AL) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10)	1,2
Y	column 8, line 45 -column 79, line 9	3
Y	EP 0 660 605 A (HITACHI LTD) 28 June 1995 (1995-06-28)	3
	column 8, line 12 -column 31, line 36	
A	WO 96 33562 A (HYBRID NETWORKS INC) 24 October 1996 (1996-10-24)	1-3
	page 5, line 33 -page 17	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *A* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 November 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Materne, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/06634

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5835087 A	10-11-1998	US 5758257 A	26-05-1998
		AU 703247 B	25-03-1999
		AU 4410396 A	19-06-1996
		CA 2207868 A	06-06-1996
		EP 0796538 A	24-09-1997
		US 6020883 A	01-02-2000
		WO 9617467 A	06-06-1996
		US 5734720 A	31-03-1998
		US 5754938 A	19-05-1998
		US 5754939 A	19-05-1998
		US 6088722 A	11-07-2000
		US 6029195 A	22-02-2000
EP 0660605 A	28-06-1995	JP 7236132 A	05-09-1995
		DE 69424389 D	15-06-2000
		US 6005599 A	21-12-1999
WO 9633562 A	24-10-1996	US 5586121 A	17-12-1996
		EP 0830756 A	25-03-1998
		JP 11504471 T	20-04-1999
		US 5818845 A	06-10-1998
		US 6016316 A	18-01-2000
		US 5959997 A	28-09-1999
		US 6005850 A	21-12-1999
		US 5828655 A	27-10-1998
		US 5946322 A	31-08-1999
		US 5859852 A	12-01-1999